communities in ACTION

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communities in ACTION

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a periodical account of the War on Poverty, published by the Community Action Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

RALPH MATTHEWS, JR.
Editor
PATRICIA ALLOTT
Graphics

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Poverty in the Ozarks
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Address correspondence to: Communities In Action, Office of Economic Opportunity, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20506
James D. Williams, chief, Community Action section of Public Affairs Department, OEO

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OEO and Cities Where There Were No Riots

Theodore Berry, CAP director, assesses the damage and the hopes.

A nationwide survey by the Office of Economic Opportunity of 32 cities which have not had riots or civil disturbances this summer shows:

- Not one police chief or mayor said OEO heightened tensions. On the contrary most mayor and police officials felt OEO summer programs had helped to prevent violence in their communities.
- In 15 cities local Community Action Agencies calmed down bad situations in specific instances.
- In 13 cities special groups were formed to patrol troubled areas and serve as communication posts between the police and the slum areas.
- In 14 cities municipal police departments and Community Action Agencies had joint programs to prevent riots.
- In 8 cities the juvenile arrest rate went down this summer and there is good evidence this was caused by more summer jobs.

During August, OEO inspectors talked to mayors, police chiefs, juvenile judges, heads of the local Chamber of Commerce, and other leading citizens of cities where there were no riots or civil disturbances this summer. The cities were chosen to represent a broad distribution: geographical, political, and social. All the cities studied had significant minority population. It was felt that if the charge is true that Community Action programs contributed to and precipitated riots, then other cities with large Community Action programs should also have riots. The results of the survey prove that far from being a contributing factor, Community Action is a preventive force.

Despite the publicity attacks on Community Action, OEO officials said not a single mayor has asked OEO to discontinue the program in their cities. On the contrary, most mayors seem to echo the plea of Mayor Morrill M. Crowe of Richmond who came to Washington last week to ask for a doubling of his Community Action program allotment. Mayor Crowe was accompanied by a Republican businessman, Wes Hare, who is the Director of the Richmond Community Action Council.

OEO and Cities Where There Were Riots

In addition to the nationwide survey of cities that did not have riots, a spot check by personal interviews and telephone was made of the cities that did have riots or civil disturbances this summer. Obviously some non-riot cities could become riot cities, but at the end of August there were 32 cities that had had trouble this summer. In these cities:

- There are more than 30,000 Community Action employees. Only 16 of these have been arrested.
- Nine of these were summer workers, one was a VISTA. Therefore, there have been only 6 full-time poverty workers arrested.
- None have been convicted.
- In Newark, one poverty worker was arrested.
- In Detroit, no poverty workers were arrested.
- There was almost $300,000,000 worth of property damage done in the riot cities.
- Despite the fact that the poverty program has 244 buildings in the heart of the riots areas, none were burned or destroyed.
- Total damage done to Community Action buildings was $1,840 for seven sets of broken windows.

These are the facts. CAP workers throughout America should be proud of the role they have played in offering the people of their communities an alternative to violence.

I am engaged in the War on Poverty out of a deep conviction that this war can be won by the dedicated work of people like you; making full use of your imagination, persistence, ability to initiate new ideas, and to plan new tactics to help the poor help themselves out of poverty.

This same type of conviction was clearly demonstrated by CAP personnel this summer, in the few examples cited above. The lesson we have learned should be obvious, but it deserves restating from time to time: that the most effective community action workers are those who add to their skill and commitment a thorough knowledge of their communities, and a sense of identification with the people they are trying to help. In its not yet three years of existence, the impact of the community action programs as a force for constructive change is just beginning to be felt. With your continued commitment, we can move mountains. Theodore M. Berry

THE MORAL WAR

Congressional hearings are now being held to determine whether the Office of Economic Opportunity should continue to exist. A great deal of political rhetoric surrounds the suggestion of disbanding the agency for the poor, but stripped clean, the proposal is that America should once more turn its back on one-fifth of the American community.

In the abstract, such a proposal sounds incredible, yet, answering a flurry of spurious charges, one gradually comes to accept the idea as a serious proposition. In a similar manner, mass massacres of people are hard to accept as philosophical thought, but believable as concrete reality.

Billy Graham, easily the world's best known evangelist, recently came to Washington to speak to 104 Congressmen on behalf of the Poverty Program.

"I am a convert to the War on Poverty," he said. "This is the first time in 17 years that I have come to Washington to speak for or against a government program."

"But now," he continued, "I have come to speak to various Congressmen in favor of the Poverty Program."

Why did Dr. Graham convert? He said that he converted to the War on Poverty because of an intense study of the Bible on the subject, coupled with a study of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Indeed, Dr. Graham had gone so far as to count the passages that commands care for the poor and needy: there are 175. ("Making anti-poverty efforts a major teaching of the Bible").

There is no question that if one turns to the Bible, he certainly can find ample documentation, instruction and even admonitions to care for the poor.

"Insofar as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me," Christ said, and upon these words an entire social gospel can and has been built.

But it is not necessary to go to the Bible to know that the strong should protect the weak. It is a foundation stone in the architecture of every society: accepted by the weak for obvious reasons, excepted by the strong because all can be made weak. As Spencer says: "Society exists for the benefit of its members; not the members for the benefit of society." (Principles of Ethics, Sec. 222).

The man who drives around with the self-serving bumper sticker, "I fight poverty—I work," should not need to be led to Ecclesiastes X verse 11, to read, "I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." Time and chance are all too apparent in life's affairs to need much documentation.

As poverty and misfortune are not respecters of political parties, nor is human suffering, OEO has made a conscientious effort to be bi-partisan. We have always given as much money to Republican areas as we have to Democratic areas of the country. In fact, states with Republican governors have received $1,272,702,819, and states with Democratic governors have received $1,086,871,969, giving Republican states an edge of $185,830,850. Big cities with Republican mayors do as well or better than those with Democratic mayors. Furthermore, one of Sargent Shriver's special assistants is a Republican, as is a regional director and many other staff members.

OEO, however, has not enjoyed a bi-partisan reputation, probably because of its setting as a cornerstone of the Great Society.

One of Dr. Graham's main points was that the War on Poverty should not be bogged down in partisan politics. It is in danger of becoming just that, though. This is as illogical as it is reprehensible. For just as poverty is not a political problem, neither is OEO a political answer. OEO cannot win the battle against poverty; only the American people can do that. And it is not OEO's problem, it is America's problem.

To lift 32 million Americans out of poverty, partisan politics and selfishness must be transcended

Christ's words, "The poor you always have with you," was not a command, but a prophesy, and an accurate one at that. Today there are more poor people in the world than when the words were spoken two thousand years ago.

We may well always have poverty, but it is not inevitable; it will be because those with money will

never want to share it, even a minute part, and that those with time will never want to give it: in short, because people are selfish. Avarice is frequently stronger than generosity or compassion.

The American people are not evil; they are uninformed. The poor are the invisible Americans. Most Americans don't only not think of the poor, they don't even know they exist. We have become the loneliest nation in the world, isolated in suburban splendor, each family encased in its own home or apartment, with the plateglass window separating them even from the family next door, much less the slum area across town. Little wonder Thomas Wolfe said we were a lost nation.

In "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Pablo, the guerrilla leader, returns to share in his compatriots' fate because he cannot stand the loneliness of isolated safety. Americans too must ultimately share each others' fate. But this need not be unwanted, indeed it may make us a happier and sounder people.

OEO Director Sargent Shriver is fond of telling the story of a recent visit to the Bethany Methodist Hospital in Chicago. In one of the day rooms in the chronically ill section there was a short, skinny girl with scraggly hair, wearing a dress too long and too loose, feeding a patient with Parkinson's disease. The patient's hands, arms and head shook uncontrollably. The girl took a spoonful of soup and somehow got it into the patient's mouth. She did it again and again, until the soup bowl was empty. Then she fed him the rest of the meal, weary spoonful by weary spoonful. Shriver asked the man, "How do you like this girl?" He replied, "She beautiful, isn't she?" That short, skinny girl with the scraggly hair was beautiful to him and not only beautiful, but lovable. Suddenly, Shriver said, she became beautiful to him.

The question is: Are Americans going to be beautiful?

It has been 30 years since Franklin Roosevelt told the people of this country that 33 per cent of the people were trapped by poverty. In 30 years, we've painfully reduced this percentage to 20 per cent. But 20 per cent is still a high figure. And even with the present poverty program, we are committing only one and one-half cent on the dollar to alleviate the situation. Even so there are people who begrudge this one and a half cent and would happily stick a dagger into the program's heart.

The Negro used to be known for his patience. But suddenly he's not patient anymore and everyone is surprised. The poor have also been patient, very patient. When President Johnson announced the War on Poverty, they believed They did not run to their fund of past hurts to come up with a here we-go-again attitude, though assuredly they were entitled to it. Rather, many of the poor sincerely thought that many of the affluent cared. And to their grace and glory. they still think this, three years and many discouragements later. But if poverty is to be eliminated, it is not enough that some of the affluent care. All the affluent must care. One hundred and forty million Americans must be bothered that 32 million other Americans are poor.

But the fact is that many Americans don't care. And thus the poverty program, the bright shining promise, is in danger of shattering.

This is not because of the expense of the Viet Nam war, not because the Bureau of the Budget doesn't want OEO to have the money, not because the President doesn't care, not even because there is a cabal against poor people.

Indifference, molded and used for political ends, is the threatening force that could undo all that OEO has accomplished in the past three years.

But I do not think that political cynicism will succeed. I think there are too many people who do care who see the War on Poverty as the moral obligation that it is. I believe that America will fulfill her obligations to her people.

By PHILLIP HARDBERGER
Special Assistant to OEO
Director Sargent Shriver

Wanting out! Getting out! "I'm not out to get Whitey
I'm just out to get out

Wantin out! Getting out!

Show this to the next person who says there is no hope for slum youth

These are the comments of a 17-year-old Negro male from Newark.

He is not a boy, nor a teenager, nor an adolescent. Even though he is only 17, we cannot utilize the typical strategies employed in keeping the young in their place.

He will not be bought off with a two-week vacation at Ft. Lauderdale.

He will not change his view because we offer him a new set of clothes or a hot rod.

He will not stay in school because we tell him that dropouts are always sorry later.

He will not buy the notion that he should suffer now since there is a better world dawning.

He will not be intimidated even though our image as a nation is being tarnished by his kind of behavior and attitude.

He will not respond to words alone.

He will not "cool it," even though we are sincere in what we promise.

What he has in common with other adolescents is a need for immediate payoffs—he does not want pie in the sky when he dies—he wants in—and he wants in now.

Let there be no misunderstanding. He is not a disciple of Carmichael, King or Brown; for the most part, not unlike many others, he does not really know what they represent, nor is he sophisticated in matters of ideology and politics. He is not attempting to prove his masculinity by violence, nor is he seeking vengeance for decades of slavery and degradation.

He is not a member of any organization which seeks to overthrow our economy, our form of government. He is not the leader.

He is not a black nationalist or a separatist—on the contrary, he wants out of the segregated society. He wants out of slums and ghettos. He wants out of small apartments where he must fight for air space with eight other people, and he wants out of unemployment. He wants out of narrow streets filled with litter and human failures of years passed.

He wants in.

He wants the very same things that most of us in the respectable, law-abiding middle class want for our children and for ourselves. He wants a decent home —he wants a decent job—he wants the clothing—the food—the safety and security—the vacations—that come with the good life. He wants these things and he is willing to work for these goals—he is willing to burn—to fight—and perhaps kill so that he too can have his share of the good life—a life which is continuously portrayed in the mass media—but nonexistent in his ghetto.

For this 17-year-old, promises of better schools and new training programs are not enough—he has found that these are not sufficient—he has found that the school may provide him some learning and some shelter, but it does not alter the ghetto—it does not free him from an environment of despair and failure—the box is opened for only a moment and then the cover comes slamming down.

The ghetto will not allow him to meet with others who have found their way into the life he seeks for himself—within the ghetto there is isolation—and

Wanting out! Getting out!

there is the stigma of failure—there is little in the slums that allows one to feel a sense of pride—there is little to suggest that there is a way out through legitimate means.

No matter the quality of the program—the sincerity of the program planners—with the ghetto—he is segregated—he knows there is something better—but he does not see it in the ghetto schools—in the ghetto neighborhoods—in the adults of the ghetto. He knows there is a better life and he perceives that it is limited to others—others outside of the ghetto—others who are not black—they have theirs and he wants his.

Place him in a setting where he sees light—place him in a setting where the cards are not stacked against him—place him in a setting where he clearly sees that his color—his place of residence—does not determine whether he has access to the good life.

Put him with others of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds—let him see that he is no different from them in terms of opportunities—that he has access to the same teachers, the same food, the same adults, the same leisure-time activities, the same medical and dental care; that he like the others have their fair share of opportunities, responsibilities, problems, and payoffs.

This is the Job Corps. The Job Corps has taken youth out of the slums and the ghettos—the Job Corps has provided a new community—a community where men and women are judged and rewarded, not on the basis of their color, their economic background, their looks, or their clothing, or their father's occupation.

The Job Corps makes clear that whatever is good or bad in community life is equally distributed. The Job Corps says to ghetto youth—you are out of the box—you are on the way to a better life—it is no longer the restrictions of the ghetto that hold you down—you now have the opportunity to determine your future—you can now begin to control the many factors that once prevented you from attaining your goals.

There have been no racial uprisings, burnings, shootings, or violence in the many Job Corps communities of this country, despite the close physical proximity in which these young people find themselves—despite the great racial and ethnic heterogeneity of the enrollees—despite the hostility of some residents of communities near Job Corps Centers—despite the long hot summer—despite the efforts of some who would prefer to see violence and not harmony within the Job Corps.

Perhaps the lessons of the Job Corps are two-fold: There are many thousands of poor youth who perceive that they cannot overcome until they can break out of ghettos and slums. These are young men and women who have not been helped and/or trained by being welfare recipients. They have a need to learn, to experience, to become a part of the society outside of their immediate surroundings.

The Job Corps offers a change—a chance to move away from a depressing environment and to experience life outside of the ghetto. This is the first step toward the emergence of a new person.

—David Gottlieb
Associate Director, Job Corps
Nov. 1966—Sept. 1967

Bold New Health Ideas

Bringing medicine to the people

"guaranteeing the right to life!"

". . . the poor in our country have their lives whittled away by sickness. . . . there is a new realization of the meaning of the 'right to life,' the 'right of health' is derivative from the 'right to life.' . . ."

Sargent Shriver said this recently regarding America's moral obligation to provide proper medical services for its poor and OEO's bold push to launch community health service centers in poverty areas, rural and urban, across the land.

The need is clear and the answer, comprehensive health service centers located in communities of the poor, is at hand.

These statistics indicate the challenge CAP health centers face:

- **one-half of all the women who have their babies in public hospitals have no pre-natal care at all**
- **sixty percent of poor children receive no medical care and never see a dentist**
- **adults in poor families have four times more disabling heart disease, 10 times more visual impairment, 6 times more mental illness, retardation and nervous disorders than in families that are not poor**
- **the chance of a child dying before the age of one is 50 percent higher for the poor; and the chance of dying before the age of 35 is four times greater for the poor**
- **before 1920, the rate of maternal mortality was 79 percent higher among Negroes than among Caucasians; in 1963 it was 320 percent higher**
- **among the poor who are employed, one-third have chronic illnesses that severely limit their ability to work; no matter how many days others may lose from work because of sickness, the figure is double for the poor—and the poor do not have the benefit of salary, sick leave or a work environment that will tolerate their absence**
- **sheer poverty is considered by some authorities to be the third leading cause of death in our cities; and the killer diseases of the poor are tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia, diseases which the more economically fortunate of our citizens have not suffered for a generation**

These are staggering health problems. Community Action's approach is characteristic of OEO's national programs—ie: take the medical facilities where the people are who need them.

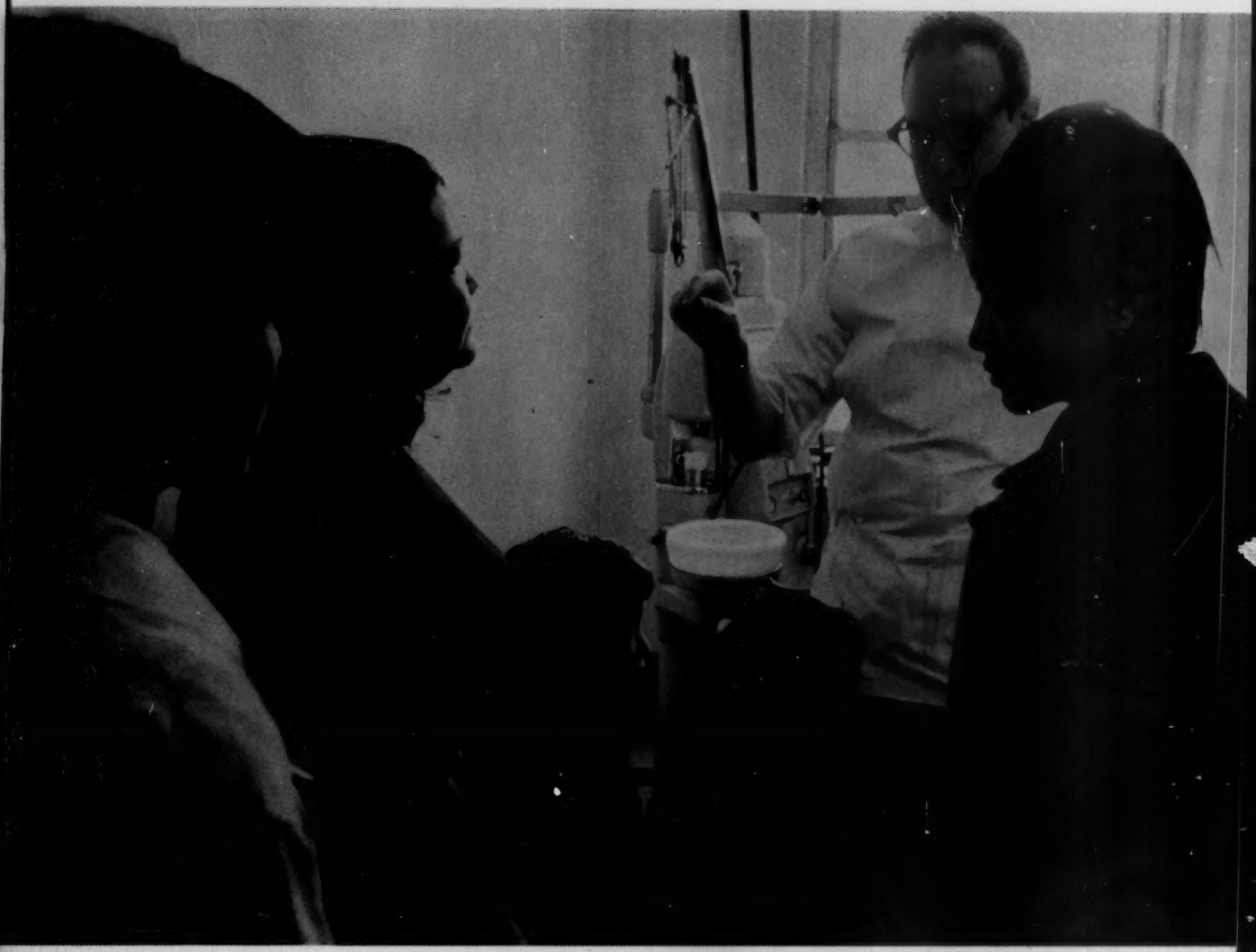
Traditional medical institutions are often out of travel range for the poor, or the waiting, red tape and cost of hospital care is often so overwhelming to low-income people that they give up in confusion and despair and go home. Illness, of course, is not abated, but increased.

Manhattan's Gouveneur Ambulatory Clinic, as shown in the following photographic essay, is pioneering in the creation of a health services facility that is not a fortress *from* the poor but a warm, responsive medical center that welcomes low-income families, employs people from this community of the poor and stresses community organization as an important tool to reach everyone within its jurisdiction.

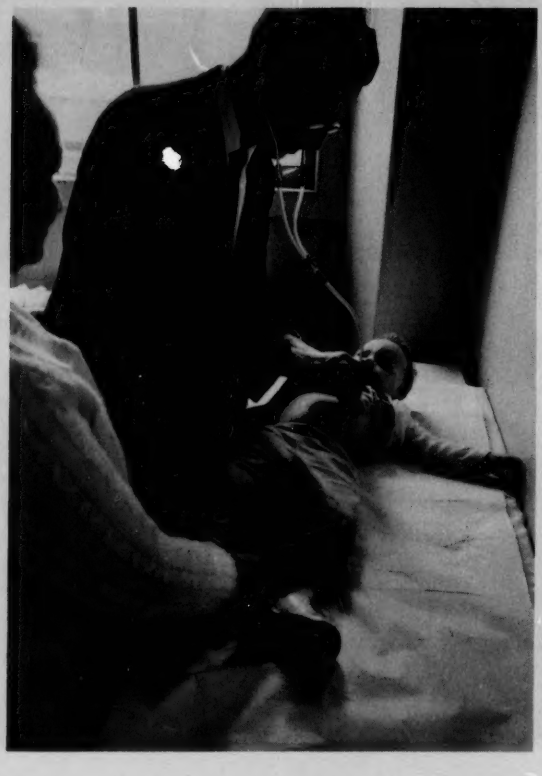
OEO has funded several aspects of this clinic, a project of Beth Israel Medical Center of New York City.

"guaranteeing the right to life!"

The pediatrics section of Gouverneur Clinic is the other half of a health service center, with an adult section serving older persons. The clinic was founded in December, 1961, and is staffed by parttime physicians, most of whom speak more than one language.

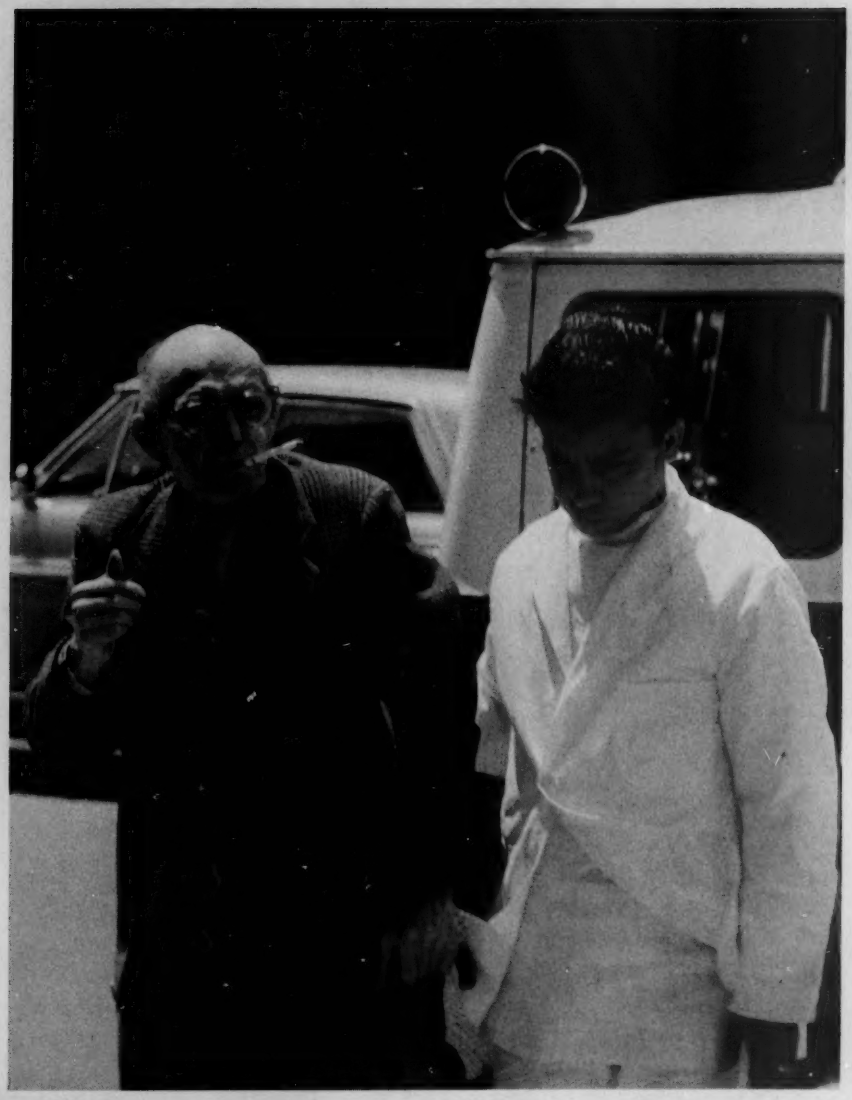


One of Gouverneur Clinic's 15 parttime dentists advises mothers on children's dental hygiene. The clinic accepts all emergency dental cases and supplies free care to persons under 21 years of age. Gouverneur Clinic was founded in December, 1961, by Dr. Howard J. Brown, M.D., who is now the Health Services Administrator of the City of New York.

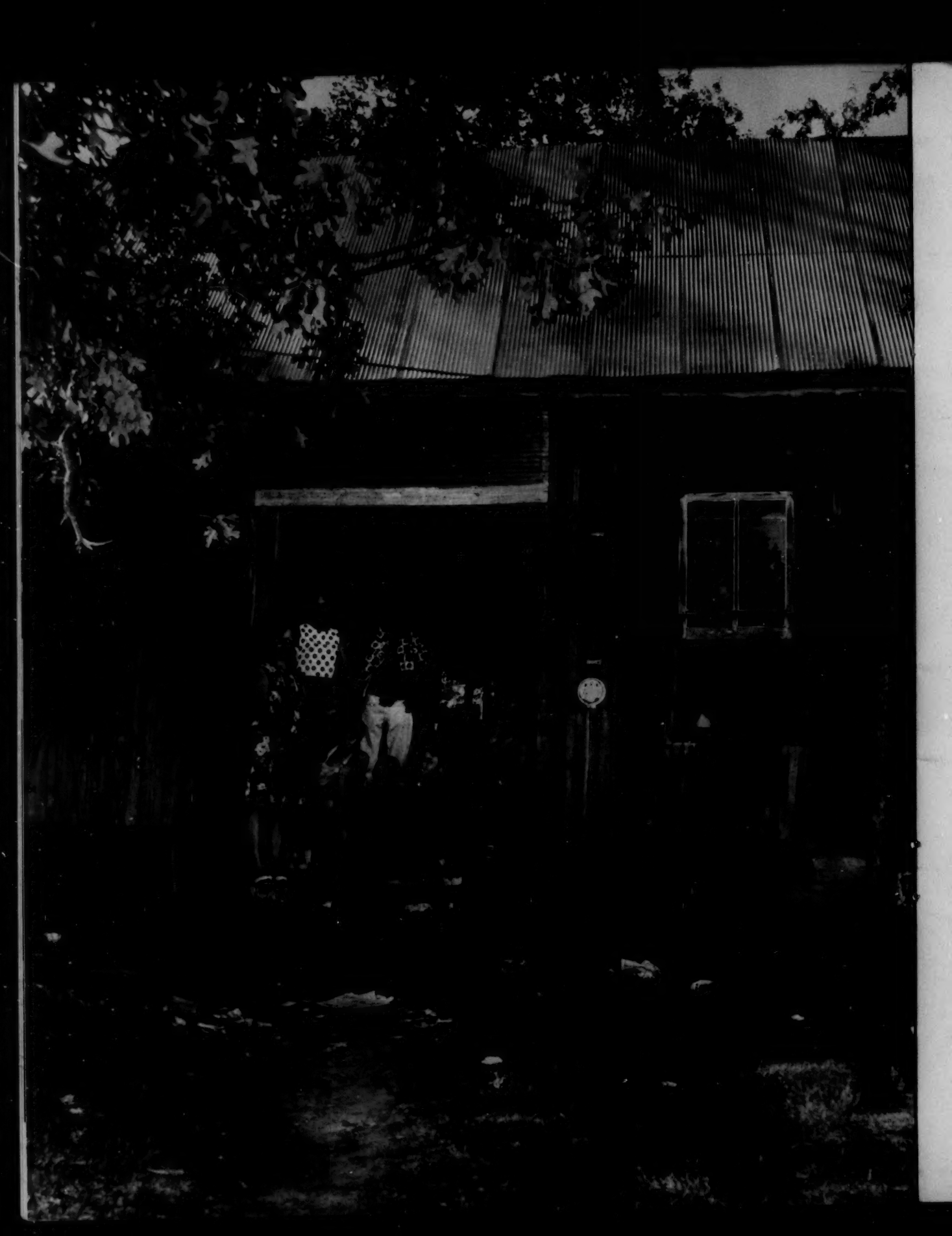


The emergency room at the clinic serves patients requiring after-hours or urgent surgical needs at a rate of some 1,800 persons a month. Other sections of the clinic are the screening clinic which includes medicine (for adults) and pediatrics (for children) at 7,000 persons a month, and the appointment section which was established to encourage patients to have a regular family doctor at the clinic, and it sees an average of 10,000 persons a month.

"guaranteeing the right to life!"



Gouverneur Clinic receives a proportionately higher number of elderly patients, especially Jewish immigrant persons who settled in that part of New York City and whose children moved away in the typical fashion of a second generation. The podiatry section is an especially busy one for the elderly. Other sections include dermatology, ear-nose-throat, eye, genital-urinary, obstetrics-gynecology, orthopedic, podiatric and surgery. The clinic has four X-ray tables, a lab and a pharmacy.



ARVAC in the Ozarks

How Arkansas rural CAA reaches hard-core poor in the barren foothills

The old Miller place is out from Dardanelle, Arkansas, on a mountain side in the Ozark National Forest. To reach it, you ride for 90 miles on narrow US 64, through the green foothills that ring the Arkansas River Valley; then up the mountain.

There, you leave the paved road for a rutted red dirt track. Finally the trail stops altogether. After this, it's a ride on shank's mare for another half-mile.

There, on a rocky shelf, is the house—or what's left of it. It was once an old-fashioned farmhouse with breezeway through the middle, living quarters on either side, and a long L-shaped kitchen at the rear. Now it is falling in; tarpaper peels from the sides, the roof angles crazily. The front yard is strewn with litter; rusted tools, empty jars and cans, a mountain of garbage cascades around the tilted steps. A mongrel dog barks.

A toothless old woman with long, thin black hair coiling greasily on her neck and shoulders is on the porch. At her feet is a skinny baby clad only in a filthy diaper. A little boy about four, his eye swollen from a wasp sting, hangs on the arm of the grandmother's chair. Other children in rags, one without pants, appear from around the house.

The children's mother comes out, a thin childish figure in old shorts and shirt. She is blond, and severely cross-eyed. At 22, she has four children and no husband; she has lived on this mountain all her life. Her name is Geraldine. She is obviously the dominant family member.

Another girl appears in the doorway, a strikingly pretty blonde teenager with long, thickly-lashed blue eyes. She carries a dog-eared copy of *True Confessions*. This is Dorothy, just turned 14, who has decided to drop out of the seventh grade. Her 17-year-old brother, Doyle, is in jail charged with murder; the week before, he had shot and killed a 56-year-old mountaineer who molested Dorothy.

The other two daughters aren't home. Opal, 19, has taken up with a 42-year-old neighbor whose first wife starved to death. Ruby, even more cross-eyed than Geraldine and an alcoholic to boot, celebrated her 16th birthday last month by marrying a 56-year-old man. The sheriff has threatened to have her placed in a reform school because of her drunkenness.

There is no sign of the other sons, Harold 19; and Bobby, 14, is at Camp Robinson, the newly-opened summer camp for underprivileged children near Little Rock. Doyle, the likeliest of the boys, had been training as a cleaner and presser at a Job Corps camp before the shooting; Harold has shown no interest in working or learning a trade.

Geraldine is talking with Ruth Phillips, the ARVAC (Arkansas River Valley Area Council) community service aide, who visits her weekly. Yes, she says, she has been cooking the surplus commodity foods her sister brought from town; they taste pretty good. The wasp sting on the little boy's eyelid reminds her; she wants to sign up for the self-help medical and first aid course at the county clinic.

The old woman smiles, showing her single front tooth, and bobs her head in agreement. "Hit'd be a good thing," she says. "Them wasps is awful bad this year—all that rain." Flies buzz around her, The baby at her feet wails, and she bends to pat him. Dorothy picks the child up and hands him to the old lady.

Jo Ann Braddy has been talking with Dorothy about dropping out of school. "I jis got fed up with them ol' nits," the girl says. "Think they know everything." Jo Ann tells her that if she goes back to school in September, she may be able to get a job through the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and be able to buy some

school clothes. "Well, I'll think about it," says Dorothy.

Leaving, ARVAC's executive director Bob Atkison sums up the visit with a heartfelt "whew!" As the flies and the smell are left behind, Ruth Phillips comments: "Believe it or not, they're better than they were a year ago. Then, they chased me off the place—I was scared of Harold."

Recently, she says, she has been venturing into the filthy kitchen to teach Geraldine to cook, and the babies are thriving on the powdered milk from welfare.

Also, she is teaching Geraldine and Dorothy to sew; and she has gotten Geraldine to accept the services of the health clinic, including family planning.

All the ARVAC people agree that the Millers are near the bottom of the list of hard-core poverty cases they serve; illiterate, suspicious, hard to "get to." But Ruth Phillips won't give up on them; step by cautious step, she has sought their friendship and trust for more than a year. Now, when they have family troubles such as Doyle's arrest, they send for Ruth. "Give me another year with them, and you won't know that family," Ruth vows.

Visits to a dozen other families in the rolling Ozark foothills and Arkansas River bottoms prove that Ruth knows what she is talking about. There are many examples of ARVAC's progress here varying with the depths of poverty to which each family was reduced and the length of time since ARVAC found them.

There are the Walkers, Ruby and Arthur, and their nine kids at home, ranging in age from three months to 19 years. Mike, the oldest son, is in Vietnam. Arthur works as a school custodian, a job ARVAC got for him; Ruby, who has had 17 pregnancies since World War II, is now a client of the family planning clinic, and is attending a waitress class. Jack, the 19-year-old, has so far disappointed the community service aide; he had a job catching poultry for the processing plant, but didn't like getting up at 3 a.m. and is now waiting for the hay hauling season. A 15-year-old daughter is staying in school, however, and hopes to get on NYC while in 10th grade this fall.

There is Joe Gordon, a school dropout and Navy veteran from Brooklyn who moved to Arkansas for his health, and is now a printer trainee on a work-training job secured through ARVAC. His wife is taking her first art lessons through an extension course; she is so talented that she will teach art in the public schools this fall. They and their three children live on a rundown farm where they grow rabbits and a vegetable garden. A year ago they were destitute and on relief; now they are off welfare.

Deep in the river bottom cul de sac and moonshiners' haven known as Sugar Grove, eight miles from the paved road and 20 from a town, there are several Wilkins families, all kinfolks. They and their neighbors, all related, are all accustomed to the visits of Ouida Ryan, a cheerful grayhaired farm woman who roams their "dangerous" (according to the sheriff) neighborhood in a pickup truck.

Several months ago, soon after assuming the case load in Sugar Grove, Ouida realized that some sort of mass immunization program was badly needed in the bottom. She took one car load of children to Booneville to the health clinic, and the county nurse administered 15 shots. The nurse told her that if 20 or 25 more people in the neighborhood would sign up, she would come to Sugar Grove for additional immunizations. Ouida spread the word and 62 people showed up for measles, diptheria, tetanus and polio shots. While they waited for the nurse, Mrs. Ryan showed pictures and lectured the group on poisonous plants and insects and other rural hazards.

Then there is Frances Whitworth, a remarkable protege of Community Service Aide Dora Couch, who seems to be determined to pull her whole family off the bottom strata of poverty.

Frances, a Californian by birth, came from a large family. Her mother died when she was quite young and she quit school to look after younger children. When she was 19, she married Ralph Whitworth and moved back with him to the Ozark hills where his

family, like many small farmers, had been reduced to dire poverty with the decline of cotton farming.

Over the years, Frances gave birth to eight children, beginning with Georgia, now 20 and married, and on down to curlyhaired Melanie, age 2½. With each additional mouth to feed, the family grew poorer, and Frances sank deeper and deeper into the despairing lassitude common to the region. She put on weight, forgot cleanliness, let her hair go. The children wore rags, and played among the rusty used auto parts around the shack they called home. Ralph built a tarpaper lean-to and sold vegetables and fruits in season. The family went on welfare.

Then, about 18 months ago, ARVAC's Dora Couch found the Whitworths, and a remarkable series of events was set in motion. Frances remembered the dream of her younger years; she wanted to go back to school and finish her high school education. Dora enrolled her in Adult Basic Education classes; soon she was also attending the neighborhood center classes in cooking and sewing and grooming. She lost 40 pounds, and in six months she had her G.E.D., or high school equivalency certificate. Then Frances enrolled in licensed practical nurse training at Russellville, under a Title V program funded by OEO.

Meanwhile, her oldest son, Ralph Jr., 18, had been accepted by the Job Corps and was training as a mechanic at Gary Center in San Marcos, Texas. He did not finish the course; an altercation in the barracks and a knife wound sent him home to the hills. But he now had enough training to get a job as a mechanic's helper, and is self-supporting.

The second son, Robert, 16, was also accepted by the Job Corps. He is receiving work training at the Cass Conservation Center in Ozark, near enough to home so that he can return on weekends, and he is highly enthusiastic about the program. There is no doubt he will stay the course.

The younger girls are all in school; Debra, 14, in eighth grade, helps her mother around the house and is learning to make her own clothes during the ARVAC aide's weekly visit. Frances sews for Cheryl, 9, a straight-A third grader; Toni, 7, a second grader who learned to love school during Head Start classes; Denise, 6, who will be in a Head Start class in the fall; and Melanie, the baby.

Frances, who has almost finished her training at St. Mary's Hospital, has had an LPN job promised her and, according to her ARVAC friends, looks 10 years younger than she did a year ago. Her curly, graying blonde hair is neatly brushed; she wears a neat, freshly-pressed and colorful cotton dress she made herself, one that shows off her trim new figure.

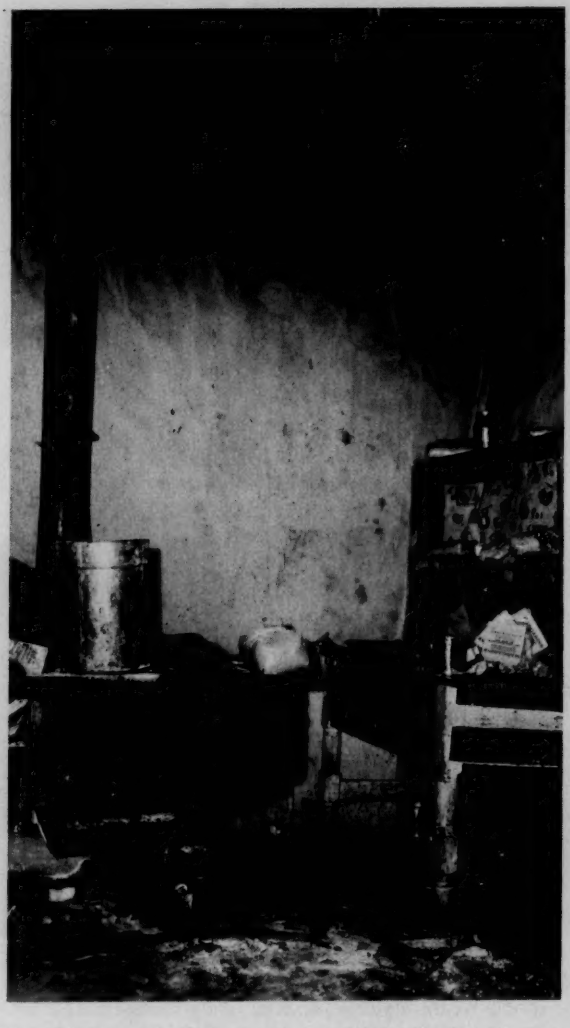
The best news of all has just come, Frances says. FHA has approved a small loan for expansion and renovation of the "shell home" they bought several years ago, and could never afford to finish. They will add a long room, partitioned into two bedrooms, onto the shell, which sits in back of the dilapidated shack they now occupy, and run in water and lights. Then they will tear down the shack, and have a lawn on their property.

"I can't hardly believe it," says Frances. "A real home of our own, and no more carrying water from the neighbor's well across the road!"

This reporter visited many other homes in the eight-county area served by ARVAC, and found that each and every family is being served according to its needs, to the limits to which OEO-funded programs can take them. Mrs. Violet Sory, for example, a widow crippled by arthritis, and her son, Larry, an NYC student who will graduate from high school this year. They get along on his stipend and the few dollars she earns by making Raggedy Ann dolls, an art taught her by an ARVAC aide and sold through gift shops.

There was Mary Martin, a 31-year-old mother of five small children whose husband deserted her. They live in a mountain cabin with a well and a privy, where the water is so full of coal, copper, and other minerals, that the wash comes out gray. She has been enrolled in ABE courses, and worked as a Head Start aide, and was busily paring 5 bushels of apples to be canned when her ARVAC caseworker arrived.

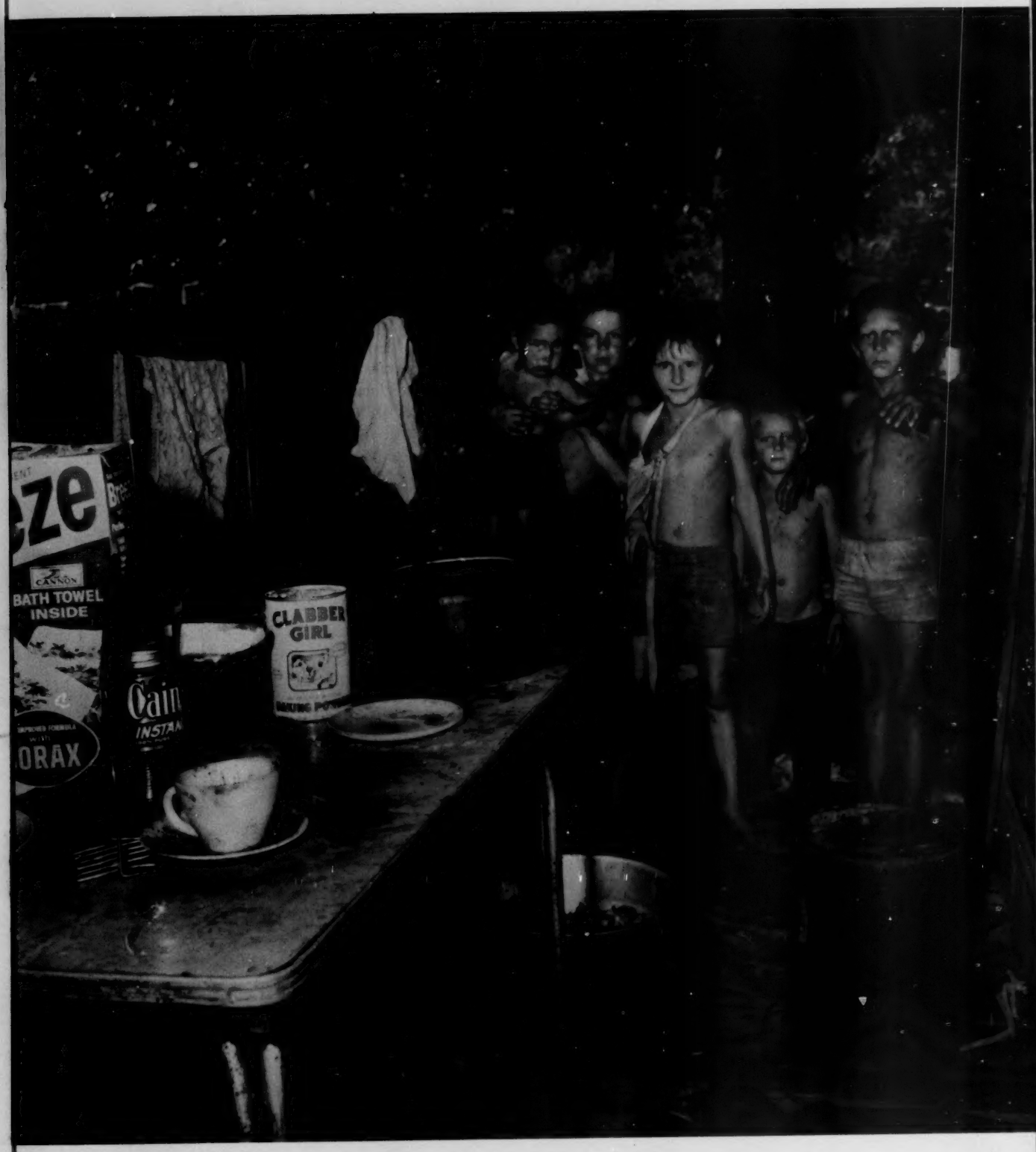
There was Lorene Graham, whose many children used to sleep on rags on the floor. Nine of the 14 are now living in foster homes, because Lorene decided they would be better off with people who could afford to feed them. Her oldest son, James, had Job Corps mechanic training and is now married and living in



Hot Springs, where he has a good job; Jerald, 21, has been in the Job Corps for a year and a half. Lorene, who wore her best blue dress and a string of pink beads to welcome us, has learned to cook the surplus pinto beans and rice from Welfare, and bright-eyed Mary, 12, an excellent student, and Robert, 9, seem to be thriving on it.

There was the middle-aged farm woman who learned to trap the rabbits which breed on her land and now, despite her family's scoffing, has a steady income from skinning and selling them to a frozen foods plant. An ARVAC worker showed her how, and she got off relief that way.

Three people are largely responsible for this far-reaching self-help poverty program which has taken such a strong hold on the proud mountain people of the Ozark foothills.


CANNON
BATH TOWEL
INSIDE
CLABBER
GIRL
ORAX

They are Jo Ann Braddy, a soft-spoken mother of three young children who taught school before she agreed to head a home management pilot project in Yell County for OEO, prior to ARVAC's establishment as the eight-community action agency.

It was Jo Ann who conceived the idea of hiring aides who themselves were borderline poverty people, and who needed the $1.25 per hour paychecks to feed and clothe their own families. It was her theory that these aides, women who had "been there," could attack poverty at its roots through the mothers of such families; they could empathize with less fortunate women, and they would not be dismayed or shocked or scared off by the dire poverty off the beaten track.

Ben Haney, first executive director of ARVAC and now regional chief of the Planning, Programs and Evaluation branch of OEO, agreed with Jo Ann completely; they merged the home management project into the newly-formed ARVAC agency as an integral and primary component, and Ben set out to find inter-agency solutions for the poverty problems Jo Ann and her aides were bringing down from the hills and up from the river bottoms.

Bob Atkinson, Ben's successor, is a skilled coordinator who continues to "work the administrative side of the street." He has made himself an expert on the types and kinds of services available to the poor from every source, state and federal. He is familiar with the provisions of Titles, I, II, III, IV and V; with FHA, SGA, work-education, MPDT, the Nelson and Hays amendments—in short, is a walking compendium of poverty programs.

Other "specialists" have joined the staff; VISTA's, job training experts, etc., and all have been melded into a smoothly-functioning administrative whole. But the original community service aides (renamed after their activities broadened from home management to include entire families), 62 of them, are still the backbone of ARVAC.

In addition, the ARVAC office employees—secretaries, pay roll clerk, other clerical help—were chosen

on the same basis as the aides; young people who were struggling against poverty, who needed jobs badly to support themselves and their children, and who could be educated to perform office duties. Needless to say, these office workers are as deeply committed to the agency's goals as are the executives; they've been there, and they know what poverty is like from personal experience.

The ARVAC people have tackled an immense job, and they are quick to say that only now, two to three years from the beginning, are they able to note significant results. There are nearly 100,000 people in the eight-county area surrounding Dardanelle and Russellville, and the people are caught in the varying degrees of grinding rural poverty, isolated and forgotten. Russellville, the largest urban area, has 12,000 people. The rest are scattered from Dardanelle, population 4,000, to Gray Rock, 250 pop., or Sugar Grove, population 75.

According to a private program evaluation by Daniel Yankelovich, Inc. "It is a poor area in every sense of the word. Almost two-thirds of the families earn less than $3,000 per year, and almost four-fifths earn less than $4,000. Thirty-seven per cent of the housing units were described as substandard in 1960. Unemployment is estimated at 6-7 per cent in the entire area, running as high as 11 per cent in one county. A significant number of males (20-30%) . . . are not even listed in the working force . . . having given up trying to find work.

"In terms of the target population, the economic outlook was not a hopeful one prior to ARVAC. Traditional sources of jobs . . . farming, lumber, and coal mines . . . had become less productive. New industry required skills not readily available in the area. In the face of these severe problems, ARVAC, in little more than one full year of operation, has a considerable list of accomplishments to its credit. For example:

"—Made a major impact on the lives of at least a portion of the poor of the area, showing them a better way of life and motivating them to seek it (there is wide agreement on this point among community leaders).

"—Increased recognition among the political and economic leadership of the area's poverty problems. ARVAC appears to have avoided, substantially, the criticism leveled at OEO in other areas for failing to establish communications links with these leaders.

"—Successfully avoided major attacks as a 'give-away' program, or as federal intervention in local affairs.

"—Integrated its staff and programs, in an area with a strong segregation tradition, without major hostility."

(Integration on all levels has been achieved by ARVAC. The agency has Negro office help, and Negro aides who serve their own people in communities such as Toadsuck and Gray Rock and who also go out of their way to aid and service white families a few miles down the road.)

Bob Atkinson is very much aware of the fact that old-line social welfare agencies would disapprove of the job-trained community service aides, many of whom never finished high school.

"But one of the basic CAP goals is to develop human resources," he points out. "Additionally, we here in the rural agencies must work with the material available to us; and trained social workers are scarce as hens' teeth in the Ozarks. As a matter of fact, they are in short supply everywhere."

Bob thinks that the 'non-professional professionals,' themselves in need of poverty benefits, may be the solution to manpower problems for other rural CAPS; just taking these trainable people off the welfare rolls is a workable short-range solution to some poverty problems.

The aides work well with the VISTA's who have been assigned to the ARVAC region, he hastens to say; there is no misunderstanding about the role each can play, complementing and supplementing their efforts. The VISTA's are great motivators, especially for the young; the community service aides, besides training and counseling the parents and their children as a unit, are always at hand to offer a shoulder to cry on or transportation to the doctor when a crisis occurs.

The aides' attitude toward their jobs was best summed up by Mrs. Alice Finney, a large and motherly Negro who used to teach in a country school at Gray Rock, and who now welcomes the world and all her neighbors at the front door of her comfortable frame home.

"I'll declare you just don't know what it means to be able to help my people this way. They call on me all times of day and night; and I just thank the Lord that I can go to them, and help them, and know where I can take 'em to find a doctor or a hospital or some groceries for their hungry children. Before ARVAC came, I wouldn't have known where to go."

BETTY MCNABB
OEO Information Specialist
Southwest Region

COMMUNITY ACTION ON FILM

Photography is a powerful medium of communication; motion and still pictures are many times just what the truism holds, "worth a thousand words."

To those new to the concepts of Community Action, some motion pictures and slide film shows currently available through the OEO Department of Public Affairs are very instructive. To older hands in the community organization and action fields, these documentaries are excellent bases for discussion, training and whetting of public interest in anti-poverty programs.

They are cost-free to Community Action Agencies and to other groups with a direct or peripheral interest in the War On Poverty.

Herewith is a list of some of the interesting and available films. Write on your letterhead for service and/or information.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

(Film slide show for Rural CAA's)

Running Time: 10 minutes
Kind of Print: Color. Available in two systems:

1) **a filmstrip along with a 33 1/3 rpm record, for use with a Duquesne or similar projector**
2) **individual numbered slides (33 mm), along with the 33 1/3 rpm record**

Available: Public Affairs, Office of Economic Opportunity
1200 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

In Stinking Creek, Kentucky scene of this film show, rugged individual action is the tradition—so proud people in such isolated, rural areas of Appalachia often resist community effort.

This slide film gently offers the idea that working together is part of the answer to solving common problems growing out of poverty.

"Let's Get Together" uses real people and real situations; its narrative plays up local involvement in CAP and plays down the Federal role, a perspective suggested by attitudes of people in rural regions.

The narration is in plain language, telling how the folks there are "real pleased with the way things are getting on . . ." how Head Start gives good training so the kids will be ready for first grade; how "the real good homemaking program for girls and women shows'em how to make money go farther in runnin' a home." With script by Ralph Matthews, narration by Pick Temple, of OEO public affairs; photography by Mark Kenneman, and background music by Charlie Byrd, one of America's leading classical and jazz guitar artists. A discussion period should proceed and follow the showing. A suggestion booklet & printed script is included in the package.

STORE FRONT

(A motion picture on neighborhood organization and mental health services)

Running Time: 47 minutes
Kind of Print: Black and White
Inquiries: Public Affairs, Office of Economic Opportunity
1200 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

A neighborhood is many things—but the crowded, run-down tenements, the noise and the foul smells, the anger and frustrations, joblessness and hopelessness that are a part of New York City's South Bronx, make this community ripe for the benefits of a neighborhood service center.

STORE FRONT documents the establishment of one such center, with particular emphasis on the job training program for the non-professional aides.

The camera follows the indigenous workers as they are recruited, selected and begin their training at Lincoln Hospital. The former banquet hall that is converted into the South Bronx Neighborhood Center delivers mental health services, advice and counseling and coordination on the variety of problems which beset the people.

The film shows the kind of positive impact a neighborhood center can have on community life. Good training aid for professionals and non-professionals alike. Directed by Herbert Danska.

A YEAR TOWARDS TOMORROW

(A motion picture about anti-poverty volunteers)

Running Time: 28½ minutes (35 mm and 16 mm)
Shorter version: 15 minutes (16 mm only)
Kind of print: Color
Available: Free Rental
Sterling Movies, Inc.
43 West 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

This Academy-Award-winning VISTA film, narrated by Paul Newman, tells the moving tale of two volunteers at work: Eric Metzner in a Negro section of Atlanta, Georgia, and two young women who live on the Navajo Reservation in Lukachukai, Arizona.

In Atlanta, Eric takes the kids to another world—a tour of the airport; he encourages them to do well in school, mobilizes a clean-up campaign, sets up a recreation center, fosters the development of a tenant association—all designed to foster pride in the community.

On the reservation, the girls cope with the problems of malnutrition, physical isolation, suspicion of outsiders, a sick man's faith in a witch doctor. They eventually start a Head Start class and teach the women how to cook the government commodity cracked wheat so it can be fed to their families, rather than to the animals. Written and directed by Edmond Levy, the film received the Oscar for Best Short Documentary this year.

WHILE I RUN THIS RACE

Running Time: 28½ minutes
Kind of Print: Color (16 mm)
Available: Distribution to be determined
Inquiries: VISTA Community Relations
1111 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

The sensitive story of VISTA's at work in two rural settings in Arizona. Narrated by Charleton Heston, the film focuses on a retired couple working with Mexican-American immigrants and two young men in a Negro migrant camp.

The couple organizes a pre-school class to help keep the young children out of the fields; they find isolated families who have no food in the house, whose lack of education and resources make daily life a frustrating struggle. The young men live among a settlement of desperately poor Negro farm workers, trying to overcome the apathy of poverty with campaigns to have a stop sign put at a dangerous intersection, to get pure drinking water, and simply to clean up the area. Edward Levy for Sundial Productions.

PANCHO

(A motion picture showing how Head Start helps low-income, pre-school age children)
Running Time: 24 minutes
Kind of Print: Color
Available: Modern Talking Pictures Service
1212 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

This film is about Frank "Pancho" Cansera, a 7-year-old Mexican-American boy from Guadalupe, California.

At the age of 5, when Pancho first entered the Head Start program, he was a bloated, withdrawn, unsmiling child who walked so badly, he was usually carried about the classroom. His vocabulary was a handful of words of Spanish and English. The routine medical examination, carried out on all Head Start children, determined that the little boy was suffering from a severe glandular disorder which, if left undiscovered and untreated, would have left him dependent on society for the rest of his life. Medical treatment was undertaken immediately.

Within a year, Pancho grew an amazing 5½ inches, his IQ increased, and he became an outgoing, active, cheerful youngster. He is now happily enrolled in regular school.

Pancho was named National Head Start Child of the Year by Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Later, he visited President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, accompanied by his parents.

The occasion, held in the East Room of the White House, was the premiere of this film, which movingly portrays all that Head Start can, and is doing, for the Nation's pre-school children of poverty.

Not all stories are as dramatic as Pancho's, but there is a common need in three million American children like him. As Henry Grennan, Pancho's teacher, says in the film, "Head Start gives these children a chance to be what they **want** to be, rather than what they are **forced** to be. Head Start provides a choice for them, rather than a fate."

"PANCHO" was produced on behalf of OEO by Robert K. Sharpe.

OEO movies available to CAP's are dramatic educational tools

If you don't have it, you'd better get it!

In Durham, North Carolina several years ago, one woman began thinking about the high rate of illegitimacy in the community, the rundown homes, the stifling atmosphere. She decided that whatever the causes, and whatever the excuses, things could be changed—even if only a little.

Today, Coffee, Talk And Action is the flourishing result of her concern. The highly successful and widely imitated "community uplift" group began with one woman's notion that "all towns are blessed with citizens who care." She was determined to find them. Knocking on doors, then meeting in groups, they first mapped out schedules, then formed neighborhood clubs, sponsored The Children's House which predated Head Start, guided Project Family Help which gives food, clothing and understanding to families in desperate need, organized recreation programs, then wrote a booklet called "For Love, For Free," to tell other towns how it was all done.

Durham has found that one person *can* make a difference; and such is the power of the American Woman. This individual effort, multiplied thousands upon thousands of times, is what is happening all across America. Women—compassionate, concerned and creative—are "moving mountains" in a massive effort to eradicate poverty from the land. What would the War on Poverty do without them! Their energy is inexhaustible; their ideas invaluable; the "man" hours they put in for no pay—incalculable. In every phase of the war, women are truly front-line soldiers—as executives, as recipients of the program, as volunteers

- As executives, over 160 serve as directors of Community Action programs, out of the 1,050 in operation throughout the country.
- 1,694 VISTA volunteers are women.
- As recipients, 385,000 young women have participated in the Neighborhood Youth Corps and the Job Corps training programs.
- Over 10,000 girls have participated in the Upward Bound program which aims underprivileged young people with ambition toward college.
- The number of volunteers in the war, and the imaginative and creative ways they utilize their efforts are really incalculable. There are, for example, approximately 400,000 women who have worked as volunteers in Head Start programs.
- Approximately 50,000 women—more than 50 percent of the total membership—serve on local community action boards and advisory councils.
- More than 10,000 women volunteers from all religions and racial groups have served through WICS (Women in Community Service) to screen applicants for the Women's Job Corps. Created by the National Councils of Catholic Women, Negro Women, Jewish Women and the United Church Women, WICS, with a combined membership of 27 million, signed a government contract to recruit girls and conduct interviews for the Job Corps. Volunteers have served more than 1 million man-hours finding the girls, interviewing them, making home visits, surveying job possi-

This is the force to help community action gain momentum

bilities for returning Corpswomen, maintaining friendships during the transition period. There is no end in sight.

• B'nai B'rith women have worked in prenatal clinics, run a free lunch program in Dallas and set up food pantries in Southern California. In Columbia, S.C., they initiated Operation Tooth Care, supplying 959 children with a toothbrush, toothpaste and teaching them the essentials of dental hygiene. A Red Bank, New Jersey, chapter tutors junior high school pupils, often in their own homes; in Detroit, volunteers work in schools with children from kindergarten through seventh grade, cooperating on a mass basis with the city's community action agency.

In Tucson, Arizona, chapters work with Head Start children giving individual psychological tests. Dayton, Ohio's B'nai B'rith Women observed pre-schoolers' behavior in a learning situation for 50 days, then wrote reports which helped the teachers gain a better understanding of each child. In a New Jersey community, members established a tutoring service for parents of Head Start children, most of whom are school dropouts.

• The National Council of Negro Women operates day-care centers in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Greensboro, North Carolina. It is organizing a pre-school educational facility as a part of Bethune House, in Washington, D.C., and works with Friends of the Juvenile Court in Washington to assure friendly interest in youths brought to trial.

• The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) participates, and supports action in, approximately 500 Economic Opportunity Act programs. Community and student YWCA's in over 200 cities, representaing 41 states and the District of Columbia, have responded to the need for volunteers in some way. The National Board of the YWCA of the U.S.A. itself is prime contractor for Women's Job Corps Extension Residential programs through which an estimated 1800 Jobs Corps enrollees in the advanced phase of training are accommodated in the residences of 27 community YWCA's.

Student summer projects of the YWCA have included a summer camp in connection with the Albuquerque "Y" for Anglo, Indian, Spanish and Negro girls; a program of home visits, tutoring, recreation and day-care services in Yakima, Washington, and Scotts Run, West Virginia, in Appalachia, and an educational survey on a Rosebud Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

• The National Council of Jewish Women, at the invitation of the Los Angeles city schools Adult Education Department, helps to conduct a Home Management Consumer Education program, teaching low-income women how to shop for best buys, to cook and to sew. There is a similar program in Miami.

This is only a sampling of what women are doing in the War on Poverty. To underscore the tremendous job which has been done already, to honor and to thank those women who have given so much of themselves; and to increase and revitalize that support, a "Conference on Women in the War on Poverty," under the direction of Hyman Bookbinder, Assistant Director of OEO, was convened in Washington this Spring. It was sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity in cooperation with the Departments of Labor. and Health, Education and Welfare.

They came 400 strong on that drizzly, dreary day, from every corner of the country. These women represented 110 different national organizations and 40 State Commissions on the Status of Women, and despite the extensive effort extended, there is much, much more to be done. Many of the ladies came from organizations which had a long history of involvement with, and commitment to, the War on Poverty. Others came because of their desire to know more—or to see what the grand effort was really all about.

But the Women's Conference was not all speeches and statistics. It was an exciting, fast-paced, event-packed day. There was an inspiring talk from Sargent Shriver ("Your work is not important because of the budget you have. Nor the size of the bureaucracy at your command. . . .none of you is gathered here to see what power you can gain for yourselves. You are here to find out what service you can give to others. . . ."); a drop-in appearance by Vice President Hubert Humphrey; a luncheon dias crowded with nine Cabinet wives, a number of Congresswomen, NBC-TV's Barbara Walters of the *Today* show, Betty Furness, Eunice Kennedy Shriver (Mrs. Sargent Shriver) —all expertly introduced by Mrs. Liz Carpenter, Mrs. Johnson's Press Secretary.

There were more speeches and discussions by officials from the Department of Labor, VISTA, Head Start, Job Corps and Community Action, and the Grand Finale—a dazzling White House Reception, complete with TV cameras, receiving line to meet the President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, cocktails, a string band and a tour of the public rooms.

The President used the occasion as a major reiteration of the administration's position on the war on poverty. "To those who believe we are backing off, I say, 'no—we are not backing off—we are staying for the long pull'," he said. "We are not backing off.

nor will we—so long as I have anything to say about it. We are really just beginning."

The President also departed from his prepared text to praise Mr. Shriver, describing his leadership of OEO as "able and inspiring."

By anyone's criteria, the Women's Conference on Poverty was a smash success. The conference had been a call to arms—a challenge to all of the women of America to look at the deprivation, the poverty and hopelessness at their own doorsteps and to become involved in doing something about it. They have answered that challenge.

The ad hoc committee appointed by Sargent Shriver to coordinate national volunteer efforts agreed on a statement of support for the poverty program, and on a need to mobilize *nationally* all of the women's organizations in this effort. Further, they agreed that legislative support for the War on Poverty would be their principal activity this year. The women appointed:

—Mrs. Robert J. Claytor, President, YWCA

—Mrs. Marcus Kilch, Past President, WICS

—Mrs. Grance Olivarez, Treasurer, National Assn. for Community Development (NACD), and former member of OEO's National Advisory Council

—Maurine Newberger, former Senator from Oregon and chairman of Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women

—Mrs. Robert J. Stuart, President, League of Women Voters.

Since this precedent-setting conference, practical results are beginning to become apparent.

The League of Women Voters in a letter to all Local and State League presidents states, "The League is opposed to abolishing the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). In the short space of three years OEO has taken the initiative in launching a whole series of innovative programs that by and large fulfill the criteria set forth in the League's Statement of Position on Development of Human Resources. . . . All Leagues should continue to serve as a channel of information to Congress on the impact Economic Opportunity Act programs have on the poor in their own districts."

■ Volunteer groups in Michigan, and the State TA of West Virginia have written for more information about what they could do in the national effort.

■ The National Association of Temple Sisterhoods in New York have decided they want to start a pilot project for volunteers in a Foster Grandparent Program.

■ Delta Sigma Theta, a Negro college sorority involved in Head Start projects, decided, since the conference, to plan a family camping experience.

■ Three states have already begun plans for conferences similar to the National one, sponsored by the Governor's Commissions on the Status of Women. Connecticut had its conference on September 20th; Oklahoma plans one for this month; Nebraska will take place on November 10th. Mrs. Anne Campbell of the Nebraska Commission stated, "I came away newly inspired, and the Commission is looking forward to moving ahead in the area of enlisting more women in volunteer service in the War on Poverty."

This is just the beginning. The conference was a focal point—a rallying point to enlist the full-scale backing, prestige and commitment of the women of America against the evils of poverty. It has succeeded —even more than ever, in mobilizing their spirit and their conscience as well.

—DEBORAH WAGER

The full proceedings of the Conference are now being printed. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please write to the Office of National Councils and Organizations, Office of Economic Opportunity, 1200 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

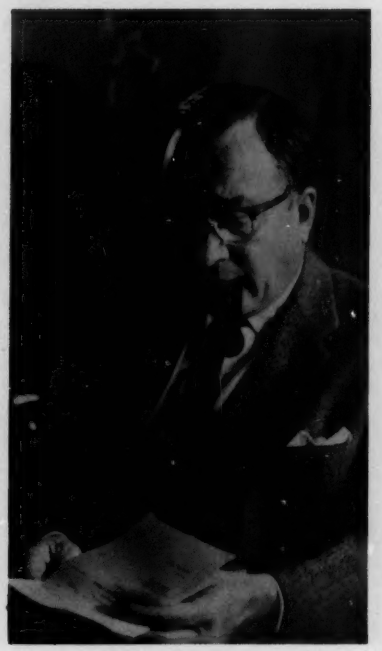
CAP GOES TO COLLEGE—U. of Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh is teaching talented poor how to administer anti-poverty programs

The dignified appearance and quiet air of most academic institutions are enhanced at the University of Pittsburgh by "The Cathedral of Learning," the main university building, a skyscraper at the campus center.

It is almost within the shadow of this building—in a nearby church meeting room—that 30 people from disadvantaged communities in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia and Ohio are learning that education can be very down to earth and practical. People, black and white, female and male, of all ages and beliefs, are learning how management is structured, how community problems can be analyzed and corrected, how to work with administrators and how to use community resources to fight poverty.

In intense, informal sessions the trainees bombard their questions and opinions to Project Director John Hannigan and others who come before them, including faculty members of the university and Community Action officials. The trainees have demonstrated this brightness and potential before. That is why they were nominated for the course by their local CAP's and local area colleges.



Dean Alvin Roseman, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: "We cannot have government for all the people, of all the people, but with the participation of only 80 percent of the people."

The course, which lasts four months, is administered under the Institute of Local Government of the University. Project training time is divided between classroom-workshop sessions at the campus and work experience in the Pittsburgh community with CAP's, the Urban League, regional planning offices, the Urban Redevelopment Agency, and the city's civil rights enforcement agency, the Mayor's Committee on Human Relations.

Dean Alvin Roseman, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, sees the program as a breakthrough of communication between two cultures in the United States and he names the training of poor people to be administrators as "clientele participation, a new democracy."

His thesis is that "if we wish to develop and carry out anti-poverty programs that are meaningful to the people they are designed to serve, we must secure the participation of representatives

Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, training course graduate now employed at Pittsburgh CAP headquarters: "You can do more on the inside of the power structure than you can do on the outside throwing the rocks."

of the client group at the policy level and develop methods to insure that they make an effective contribution to the agencies' activities."

"We cannot have government for all the people, of all the people, but with the participation of only 80 percent of the people."

The Pittsburgh program, accordingly, tests how people can develop their potential and then use their abilities as administrators, bring double insights to a Community Action Program—the insight of someone familiar with poverty and the insight of someone with four months' training by a college faculty.

Twenty trainees have already graduated from the first session of four months; 30 more are in the second four months' training program.

One of the graduates of the first session, Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, a verbal and energetic native of Pittsburgh, is now working with the Mayor's Committee on Human Resources, the over-all CAP of the city, as assistant director of the citizens' training division.

Mary Louise, who had been a volunteer worker in poverty programs before the Pittsburgh course, says, "When I was just a citizen, I was accused of not being objective. Like I saw everything subjective. But this course showed me I did know a lot of the things to do but I didn't know why they were right. This course gave me confidence 'cause it showed me how everything fit together, and I got to know and understand these things."

Previously unemployed because she had no special skills, Mary Louise now works with the different community agencies in the city, promoting citizens' training, a system teaching residents of Pittsburgh's eight poverty areas what services are available to them and how city agencies mesh into an overall structure. Leadership conferences are set up with the different organizations that request citizens' training. From there the message reaches the people via,

among other things, a mobile felt board which shows in diagram form the city agency structure.

Mrs. Smith has definite feelings about the benefits of the course. Best, she feels, are the sessions on budgeting, political and administrative structure and how agencies interact. She also thought it was great that each student planned a project and wrote a proposal for funding it. Her proposal was for a training project for poor people.

In her usual quick way, Mary Louise, surrounded by papers and charts, says, "I'm having a ball!"

More seriously she adds, "You can do more on the inside of the power structure than you can do on the outside throwing the rocks."

Mrs. Smith, who now earns $6,500 a year, begins in September to earn a master's degree in Public Administration in Community Development from the University of Pittsburgh which accepted her despite her lack of an undergraduate degree.

With Mrs. Smith, skipping four years of undergraduate work to begin her master's, will be Mrs. Elvera M. Davis, another graduate of the training course. Mrs. Davis, formerly a secretary of the Southwest Pittsburgh Community Action Program, was rehired by the CAP after graduation from the training course. Now she is assistant coordinator of their Head Start program.

Mrs. Davis, an articulate woman with a sharpened ability to see the overview of a situation, states she "can't do justice to the class. It's that good."

Mrs. Elvera Davis, course graduate, now assistant coordinator of Southwest Pittsburgh CAP Head Start program: "Universities don't involve themselves in communities. Pitt has started to, and that's good."

She especially gained from the courses on government—what its limitations are and how it changes.

Elvera is acutely tuned in to what is or isn't happening in her city and feels that, except for the new involvement of the university in the community, Pittsburgh people have "total noncommitment. There's not much cross communication but lots of 'window dressing.'"

She sees the course at the university as an indication that the days of "noncommitment" may be coming to an end.

Graduates of the first session have, on the average, doubled their earlier salaries. Besides Mary Louise and Elvera, placements have been made as program assist-

ant of the Oklahoma University Job Corps management training program at $12,000 a year; assistant director of Citizens for Community Action at Wheeling, West Virginia at $450 a month, and as an administrator with the Talent Bank of the Council of Southern Mountains at $700 a month.

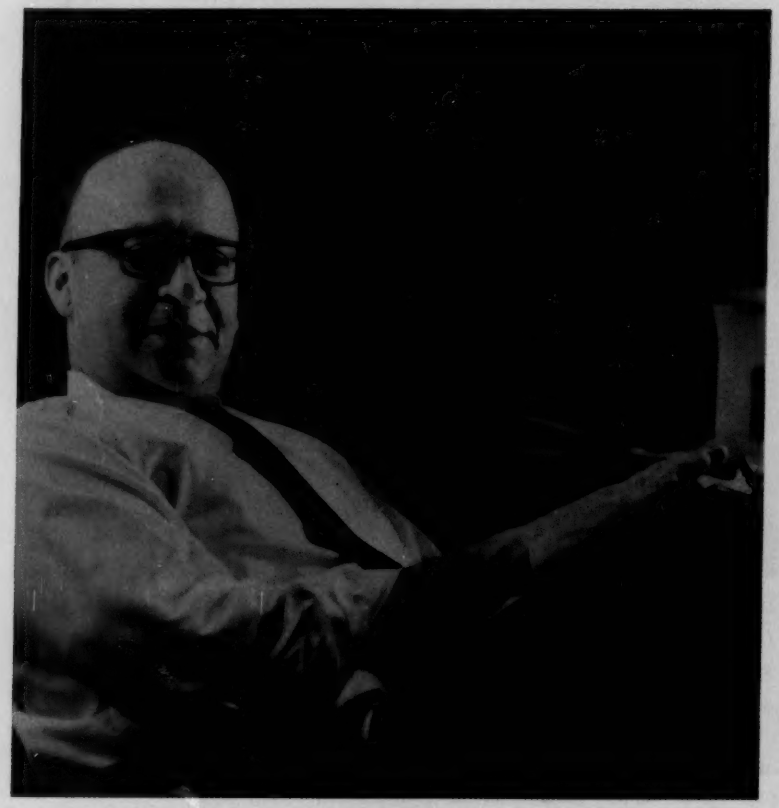
Mr. Edward Foster, associate director of the Institute of Local Government, sees the object of the course as to give trainees the ability to understand problems objectively, see different sides of a situation, and decide their actions according to long-range and significant goals.

He sums it up as "one, keep different alternatives open; two, assign probable results that would occur from the different alternative courses; and three, choose the course of action that gives you the best risk at the least cost. The cost is money, time, and let-down if the goal isn't reached."

This isn't quite so Machiavellian as it seems. As Ed Foster explains, the middle-class is thoroughly familiar with organizational structure. But the poor do not know this structure, do not understand it or appreciate it. This is one of the reasons that today's pressuring groups often have a reluctance, even a resistance to negotiate with the power structure. Since they do not understand it, they do not see how it works, how it can be malleable, how it can bring change. Out of frustration the pressuring groups cry for "all or nothing."

Results from the experiment at the University of Pittsburgh show, albeit from a limited project, that when people with the credentials of the school of "hard knocks" do learn about the power structure, do understand how to become a part of it and work through it, the cry of "all or nothing" disappears. It is replaced by the steady significant progress brought about by people who know both poverty and the power structure.

PATRICIA FOX



Mr. Edward Foser, Associate Director of Institute of Local Government which is in charge of the course: "The trick is analysis. The poor have to learn about organizational structure, learn where the power is and where the pivot points are."

What Community Action Agency Directors Said About This Magazine

National Survey Results Summarized

An overwhelming majority (85%) of community action agency directors find **Communities in Action** useful in their work, according to a recent survey conducted by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The primary reasons cited were the publication's value as an "idea stimulator," its usefulness in public affairs work, its resource value for information on national thinking regarding new directions for the poverty program.

More than 50 percent of the 1,279 CAA directors receiving the questionnaire had completed and returned it within three weeks. An analysis of the first 506 returns produced interesting and helpful material upon which OEO Public Affairs can more efficiently plan future activity.

The most useful articles, according to the CAA directors, were those describing other CAP programs. Apparently these serve as models for planning local activities. A number of directors specially noted that the magazine was a "warehouse full of ideas." The articles most often cited as "least useful" were scholarly efforts. Directors seem to feel that there are plenty of other sources for scholarly work.

The most frequent criticism (7%) was that **Communities in Action** failed to feature a sufficient number of articles on rural poverty. A few requests were received also for minor format changes such as "more pictures" and "shorter features." These suggestions are now being acted upon.

Two-thirds of the directors indicated a pressing need for more copies of **Communities in Action.** Projected to the entire number of CAAs, the results show that approximately 10,000 more copies of the magazine should be mailed out to our community action agencies. OEO is currently exploring the possibility of obtaining authorization from the Bureau of the Budget for an increase in circulation.

Four in five directors reported circulating copies to the professional staff, 56 percent said that copies went to subprofessionals as well. Board members are definitely on the lists of 37 percent of the CAAs, and the clerical staff is given copies in 45 percent of the agencies. Many directors said that they had never thought of circulating copies to staff members or board members, but that they approved of the idea and would do so in the future.

For those agencies which receive only a few copies of the publication and wish to circulate it further, it is suggested that routing slips be used to insure maximum circulation with the limited number of copies available. It is possible to increase, upon request, the number of copies mailed to each CAA by two or three copies, but until authorization is received for a larger printing, Public Affairs will not be able to fill requests for dramatic increases. In the meantime, the use of routing slips may get more of the board members and staff reading the magazine.

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